15. **Public Works.** The expenditure incurred by the Marahmut Agencies, both in the capital and in the Divisions was Rs. 4,25,349 distributed as follows:—

Communications	Rs.	30,851
Buildings	„	2,72,503
Irrigation	„	40,204
Miscellaneous	„	49,964
Establishment	„	31,827

The work of the Marahmut Department is mostly confined to Palaces, Temples, Chathrams, Oottupuras, Proverthy Cutcherries and other Sirkar buildings in charge of the Panivagay, Division Marahmut, Commercial and Cardamom Departments, and communications such as village roads and minor irrigation works, which comprise repairs to irrigation tanks in South Travancore and in the Shencottah Taluk. With a view to bring the more important of the Maramuth Works throughout the State under skilled supervision, orders have recently been issued for the Huzur Maramuth Sheristadar, who is a professional officer, inspecting the works in the mofussil periodically.

16. **P. W. Department.** The expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department was Rs. 22,44,394, the highest on record. This Department has from a small beginning assumed very large proportions, as may be seen from the fact that from a modest expenditure of Rs. 1,99,888 in the year 1863–64 when it was in its infant stage the outlay has now risen to more than eleven fold.

Excluding charges under the head of Establishment and Tools and Plant, which amounted to Rs. 2,49,077 and Rs. 71,131 respectively, the balance Rs. 19,24,186 represents the expenditure on works. This was distributed as follows over the several D. P. W. Divisions:—

Muvattupuzha Division ...	...	Rs.	2,12,444
Kottayam „	... ...	„	1,91,263
Quilon „	... ...	„	2,90,632
Trivandrum „	... ...	„	3,48,778
Head Quarters „	... ...	„	25,597
Southern „	... ...	„	1,51,905
Kodayar Project „	... ...	„	7,03,567

It may be mentioned that out of the sum of Rs. 7,03,567 shown as expenditure in the Kodayar Project Division, Rs. 6,64,602 represents the expenditure on reproductive works viz. the Irrigation Project and the maintenance of the Left Bank and the Tiruvancode channels connected with it. The expenditure on ordinary works thus amounted to Rs. 12,59,584.

Under the usual service heads, the total outlay of Rs. 22,44,394 was thus distributed:—

Buildings	Rs.	3,92,375.
Communications	„	8,23,908.
Miscellaneous public improvements	„	14,614.
Irrigation	„	6,93,289.
Establishment	„	2,49,077.
Tools and Plant	„	71,131.

Under the head of "Buildings" the following may be mentioned as some of the important works which were in progress or completed during the year. The construction of the dispensary buildings at Changanacherry, Vaikom and Arukutty, additions and alterations to the hospital buildings at Alleppey and Quilon, the construction of Taluk cutcherries at Yettumanur and Changanacherry, the con-

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struction of new buildings for the English High School at Parur, additions to the Maharajah's College and High School, Trivandrum, and the construction of the Lines for the Service Battalion at Pangode.

The total length of cart roads maintained by the department was 2,218 miles. The original works under this head consisted for the most part of works already in hand in the preceding year. The improvement of the road from Kottayam to Kumili, the bridging of the Periyar on this line, the conversion of the village road from Vaikam to Udayamperoor into a cart road, the improvement of the road from Munnar to Bodimettu, the re-construction of the bridges on the 5th and 9th miles of the Perumpavur to Alwaye road, the construction of a bridge on the 4th mile Alwaye to Edapally road, an iron girder bridge at Kandanad, the construction of the road from Ambalapuzha to Kallercode, the bridging of the streams at Pandalam and Yenadi, the bridge over the Karamanay river at the Kuvakudi crossing and the extension of the canal from Kalpalakadavu to Tiruvellam were some of the more important works which were in progress or completed during the year.

The bridle path under construction from the Travancore side to the High Range received an expenditure of Rs. 7,615 during the year. This with the expenditure during preceding years gives a total outlay of Rs. 2,05,792 on the work against an estimate of Rs. 2,98,970.

On the Northern outlet road from Munnar to Chinnar on the Coimbatore side, which is being constructed by the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company, Limited, under a special agreement with His Highness' Government, an expenditure of Rs. 88,281 was incurred during the year. This with the amount spent previously makes up a total outlay of Rs 2,28,966 against a contribution of about Rs. 4½ lakhs promised by His Highness' Government. The first 8 miles of the road have been completed and made over to Government by the Company. The remaining sections are nearing completion or are in progress.

Under Irrigation Works the only undertaking calling for special mention is the Kodayar Project. As originally contemplated, it was to consist of a masonry dam across the Kodayar near Patchiparai and of a channel 11 miles in length with the necessary Head Works, to lead the Kodayar water to the Paralayar above the Puthen Dam. The Dam was intended to be 72¼ feet high from the bed of the river to the crest and to be built with such dimensions at its base as to admit of its being eventually raised by another 10 feet if found necessary in future and was to form a reservoir with about 4 sq. miles of water-spread. The scheme as above indicated was intended to supplement the water supply to 23,000 acres of existing channel-fed wet cultivation in Nanjanad and Edanad and to irrigate about 15,000 acres of additional land. The estimated cost of the scheme was Rs. 7,94,850.

It was subsequently found that the site originally selected for the dam and its alignment were unsuitabe for the purpose and a fresh site was recommended by the retired Chief Engineer, Mr. Jopp. It was also found on his investigation that a larger area of land could be commanded by the project. He accordingly submitted a revised estimate for a larger scheme which provided for a dam of increased height and length with a reservoir of about 7 sq. miles of water-spread. The scheme as thus revised was estimated to cost Rs. 28 lakhs including a channel on the Vilavancode and Parachallay sides, other main and subsidiary channels and other items and was deemed sufficient to supplement the water supply to 23,000 acres of existing cultivation and command an additional area of 55,000 acres. The above estimate was sanctioned in January 1900.

This estimate too was found to be inadequate and a further revised estimate was submitted by the present Chief Engineer. It amounted to Rs. 70,63,646 for the whole project. Further investigations having shown the desirability of taking up the Tovalla channel first in preference to the Right Bank channel, work in the latter channel was stopped. The revised estimate for the remaining items which came up to nearly Rs. 55,08,000 was sanctioned before I took charge of the Administration. The work is now in progress according to this revised estimate. Latterly the Right Bank channel has been abandoned as the cost was found to be

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prohibitive. Three miles of this channel have however been excavated at a cost of about 1,28,000 Rs. An expenditure of over Rs. 30 and half lakhs has been incurred on the scheme up to close of the last Malabar year. As estimated by the D. P. W. the scheme finally sanctioned is calculated to add to the supply of water to 25,550 acres of wet lands already under river irrigation and ensure a regular supply to 8,120 acres under rainfed lands and 15,887 acres of uncultivated Poramboke and other dry lands, or in all benefit 49,557 acres. The Chief Engineer expects that the Kodayar waters will be to some extent supplied to the left bank channel system during the next irrigation season and hopes to be able to fully complete the dam within a further period of 18 months.

The necessity for opening new roads and improving communications in the Quilon and Northern Divisions, has been pressed on the attention of Government and will receive due consideration.

The Tinnevelly-Quilon extension of the South Indian Railway is now completed. Owing unfortunately however to the slips that occurred during the recent heavy rains of the South West monsoon, through communication has not yet been established. The line from Quilon to Punaloor was opened for traffic on the 1st of June last. It is hoped that the whole line will be opened before January 1905. According to the latest revised, estimate received the total cost for the construction of the Travancore Branch of the line is Rs. 157,71,766. The total amount of interest paid by the State up to date is Rs. 6,66,256, the guaranteed rate being 3½ per cent. The Railway runs over difficult country and the work done on the Ghat section especially deserves praise, considering the comparatively short period in which it has been completed.

With the advent of the Railway, the necessity for steam communication along the backwaters has become more pressing. Messers Walli Bhai Khader Bhai & Co. have begun to run their boats between Cochin and Quilon. Applications have been received from them as well as from other firms for help to establish a regular steam boat service. The maintenance of a uniform depth of water in the canals and the regulation of traffic are under consideration.

17. **Anchel.** There are 150 Anchel offices and 179 letter boxes throughout the State. Nearly 50 lakhs of covers, official and private, passed through the Anchel office during the past year. The earnings including the postage chargeable on official covers amounted to Rs. 3,68,853 against an expenditure of Rs. 1,00,307. It is satisfactory to note that the Anchel Hundi system is becoming more popular. A small transit-boat service is maintained in connection with this Department mainly for the carriage of the heavy mails. It will be abolished when a regular steam-boat service is established.

18. **Separate Revenue.** The receipts from separate revenue during the past year amounted to Rs. 49 34,092 and the charges to Rs. 4,89,837, leaving a net revenue of Rs. 44,44,165 or Rs. 2,07,232 more than in the previous year.

19. **Salt.** The total quantity of home-made, Bombay and Tinnevelly salt available for issue was 9,97,422 maunds. The sales were 7,49,141 maunds showing an increase of 41,553 maunds. The revenue was Rs. 19,28,651 showing a decrease of Rs. 1,13,943 due to the reduction in the selling price from Rs. 3 to 2½ per maund. There are 68 Bankshalls.

Home-made salt. There are 3 allams, viz, those at Thamarakulam, Rajakamangalam and Variyur. The out-turn from these three allams was 2,57,201½ maunds in 1079.

A Salt Conference was held and resolutions were passed as under:—

(1) That the State should eventually be made independent of foreign salt, by encouraging home manufacture.

(2) That the Colachel allam be resuscitated and worked.

(3) That the distribution of salt to the consumers be eventually left to private enterprise.

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